

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A manufacture, comprising:

a perform having a central core, a cladding layer, and ~~[[an]]~~ a sintered overladding layer; the core, cladding layer, and sintered overladding layer each comprising silica-glass; and wherein the preform has a length and an outer diameter, and an inner diameter of the sintered overladding layer varies by less than 1 percent over the ~~[[a]]~~ length of the preform.

19. (Currently amended) The manufacture of claim 18, wherein the length and the outer diameter of the perform are at least as great as 1200 mm and 90 mm, respectively.

20. (Currently amended) The manufacture of claim 18, wherein the sintered overladding layer has less than 2 parts per million of hydroxide impurities.

21. (Currently amended) The manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sintered overladding layer has less than .2 parts per million of hydroxide impurities.

22. (Currently amended) The manufacture of claim 19, wherein the preform has an outer diameter has a \odot variation of $10^{-1} 5 \times 10^{-2}$ percent or less ~~[[at]]~~ along the preform at one longitudinal position.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) The manufacture of claim 18, wherein a maximum outer diameter \odot minus a minimum outer diameter \odot at ~~[[a]]~~ any longitudinal position along on the preform is equal to or smaller than 30 microns.

25. (New) A manufacture, comprising:

a perform having a central core, a cladding layer, and a sintered overlcladding layer; the core, cladding layer, and sintered overlcladding layer each comprising silica-glass;

wherein the sintered overlcladding layer has an inner diameter, the preform has a length, and an outer diameter variation of the preform is 10^{-1} percent or less along the length of the preform.

26. (New) The manufacture of claim 25, wherein the outer diameter variation is about 3×10^{-2} percent or less at any longitudinal position along the length of the preform.

27. (New) The manufacture of claim 25, wherein the inner diameter of the sintered overlcladding layer varies by less than 1 percent along the length of the preform.